

COUNTRY

REPORT NO.

25X1

TOP SECRET

Hungarian Troops in Keszthely

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EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT Prior to 8 March 1952

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 30 September 1952REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1

REMARKS

25X1 General Information.

- 25X1 1. Prior to March 1952, Mtz Arty Regt an infantry unit, an engineer battalion and a signal unit were stationed in Keszthely (Y 4/V 40).
2. The motorized artillery regiment was quartered in two four-story buildings, and the engineer battalion and the signal unit were jointly quartered in a new four-story building in the park of the former Festetics castle. In this park were also a kitchen building, a gun shed, 2 arms and ammunition depots and 2 garages. The infantry unit was quartered in the castle. *
3. In February 1952, a firing range, about 400 x 50 meters was under construction about 3 km west of Keszthely and 200 meters south of the road to Nagyboldogasszonyfa (Y 4/V 40). Immediately west of the firing range was an ammunition depot which consisted of three buildings, each about 10 x 6 meters. Other construction work was under way.
- 25X1 4. Mtz Arty Regt, In March 1952, the motorized artillery regiment consisted of a regimental headquarters and three battalions. The first battalion consisted of the artillery headquarters and 3 batteries, each with three platoons of two sections. A section consisted of one gun crew with one LCO and five soldiers. The strength of the first battalion was estimated at about 150 soldiers. The second battalion had about the same organization as the first battalion. The third battalion also served as a training unit for LCOs. *
5. Officers known to source included: Major Balazs Papp, about 50 years old, regimental commander; Captain Istvan Gara, about 50 years old, deputy regimental commander; Senior Lieutenant Laszlo Balla, political officer; Senior Lieutenant Istvan Noto, about 35 years old, commanding officer of the first battalion; Lieutenant Laszlo Kiss, about 40 years old, political officer of the first battalion, and Lieutenant Kalman Varga, commanding officer of the first battery.
- 25X1 6. The artillery regiment was equipped with three 76-mm AT guns, eight 122-mm field howitzers and a medium mortar. Most of the soldiers were armed with M/48 rifles and a few were armed with M/48 submachine guns. The regiment had eight 3-ton Csepel trucks, 15 weapon carriers and five jeeps. *

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7. Basic training was conducted during the period from 1 November to 15 December 1951. The artillery regiment was organized into a regimental headquarters battery and two training batteries. Each battery was brought up to a strength of approximately 220 men with recruits and had three platoons. The two training batteries were disbanded in mid-December 1951 and were reorganized into the first, second and third battalion. The best soldiers were assigned to the third battalion. In January 1952, a Soviet major, about 45 years old, inspected the regiment. In mid-February 1952, a two-day practice firing with live ammunition was held in the area of Deeroegd (Y 4/D 36).*
8. Most of the about 400 recruits were young farm workers of the 1929 through 1931 classes from the Vas County. Very few of them were true Communists. Because they had known each other from childhood, there was no mutual distrust and they spoke out frankly against the regime. [redacted] most of the cadre personnel were staunch Communists. *
9. In December 1951, a decree issued by the Ministry of National Defense was read to the troops. This decree stated that, effective 1 January 1952, the previous address "comrade" for privates was abolished and was replaced by the address "harcos" or fighter. Soldiers holding ranks were to be addressed as "comrades" in addition to their rank.
- Engineer Battalion and Signal Unit.
10. The personnel of the engineer battalion were dark green service color. Ten or 15 three-ton trucks usually stood in front of the battalion building. **
11. The signal unit was estimated to have a strength of about 200 soldiers. [redacted]
[redacted] the unit was a signal unit. **
- 25X1 [redacted] Comment. The information on the barracks installation is correct. The Arty
25X1 Regt 5947 was probably activated in the fall of 1951. The heterogeneous equipment
25X1 indicates either a cadre unit or training unit. The organization of the first
25X1 battalion, which has batteries equipped with six guns, is noteworthy. The information that the 1929 through 1931 classes are serving is considered correct.
- 25X1* [redacted] Comment. The information on the engineer service color is correct. The
25X1 Festetich castle in Keszthely was previously reported as quartering the Infantry
Regt [redacted]. The engineer battalion and the signal
unit are reported for the first time.

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